

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:
in response to a first Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) server
receiving, from a first network device, a request to authorize a client to access a
network resource,
said first AAA server obtaining an accounting record for the client from an
external resource communicatively coupled to the first AAA server,
said first AAA server authorizing said client to access the network resource based
on said accounting record, and
said first AAA server sending, to the first network device, a Remote
Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS) protocol access accept
message that includes the accounting record within the RADIUS access
accept message, causing the accounting record to be logged on a second
network device, and to be sent by the second network device to a second
AAA server ~~receiving within a RADIUS start session message that~~
~~includes the accounting record within the start session message;~~
wherein the method is performed by one or more processors.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, further
comprising obtaining the accounting record for the client from a Lightweight Directory
Access Protocol directory.
4. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein
the client is selected from the group consisting of a wireless network client, a wired
network client, and a dial up client.
5. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein
causing the accounting record to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be
logged on a dedicated logging device.

6. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein causing the accounting record to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting server.
7. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein causing the accounting record to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on a third network device.
8. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein causing the accounting record to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged with a session start log entry.
9. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein causing the accounting record to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged with a session stop log entry.
10. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the accounting record comprises a handle to a second accounting record.
11. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 10, further comprising:
retrieving the second accounting record using the handle to the second accounting record;
and
causing the second accounting record to be logged.
12. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the said first AAA server sending the accounting record further comprises said first AAA server sending data of said portion as a plurality of attribute-value pairs in said access accept message.
- 13-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable non-transitory storage medium storing instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, ~~eauses-~~cause the one or more processors to perform:
- in response to a first Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) server receiving from a first network device, a request to authorize a client to access a network resource,
- said first AAA server obtaining an accounting record for the client from an external resource communicatively coupled to the first AAA server,
- said first AAA server authorizing said client to access the network resource based on said accounting record, and
- said first AAA server sending, to the first network device, a Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS) protocol access accept message that includes the accounting record within the RADIUS access accept message, ~~-,~~ causing the accounting record to be logged on a second network device, and to be sent by the second network device to; a second AAA server ~~receiving- within~~ a RADIUS start session message ~~that includes the accounting record within the start session message.~~
19. (Canceled)
20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18 and storing instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, ~~eauses-~~cause the one or more processors to perform:
- obtaining the accounting record for the client from a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol directory.
21. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the client is selected from the group consisting of a wireless network client, a wired network client, and a dial up client.
22. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18,

wherein the instructions for causing the accounting record to be logged comprise instructions for causing the accounting record to be logged on a dedicated logging device.

23. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the instructions for causing the accounting record to be logged comprise instructions for causing the accounting record to be logged on an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting server.
24. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the instructions for causing the accounting record to be logged comprise instructions for causing the accounting record to be logged on a third network device.
25. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the instructions for causing the accounting record to be logged comprise instructions for causing the accounting record to be logged with a session start log entry.
26. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the instructions for causing the accounting record to be logged comprise instructions for causing the accounting record to be logged with a session stop log entry.
27. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the accounting record comprises a handle to a second accounting record.
28. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 27 and storing instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, ~~causes~~ cause the one or more processors to perform:
retrieving the second accounting record using the handle to the second accounting record;
and
causing the second accounting record to be logged.
29. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the instructions for said first AAA server sending the accounting record further

comprise instructions for said first AAA server sending data of said portion as a plurality of attribute-value pairs in said access accept message.

30-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said first AAA server and said second AAA server are the same Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) server.

38. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said first AAA server and said second AAA server are different load balanced Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting servers that are both configured to implement the Remote Authentication Dial In User Service protocol (RADIUS) network protocol.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein said first AAA server and said second AAA server are the same Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) server.

42. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein said first AAA server and said second AAA server are different load balanced Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting servers that are both configured to implement the Remote Authentication Dial In User Service protocol (RADIUS) network protocol.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of Claim 10, wherein the

handle to the second accounting record comprises an identifier of the second accounting record that uniquely identifies the second accounting record from among a plurality of accounting records.

45. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 44, wherein the identifier of the second accounting record comprises one or more of ~~an~~-internet protocol ~~address- addresses~~ associated with the client, an internet protocol address associated with the first or second Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) server, or a random string.
46. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 18, wherein the instructions for said first AAA server sending a Remote Authentication Dial In User Service protocol (RADIUS) access accept message that includes the accounting record further comprise instructions for said first AAA server sending the portion in RADIUS Class Attributes or RADIUS Vendor Specific Attributes.
47. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 27, wherein the handle to the second accounting record comprises an identifier of the second accounting record that uniquely identifies the second accounting record from among a plurality of accounting records.
48. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 47, wherein the identifier of the second accounting record comprises one or more of ~~an~~-internet protocol ~~address- addresses~~ associated with the client, an internet protocol address associated with the first or second Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) server, or a random string.